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Human Rights Commission Minutes 04/20/2005

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Final April 20, 2005

In Attendance: Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Christine Deshler, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent:

Cecilia Akuffo, Sheri Baron, Kevin McGann

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

1. The March minutes were approved and accepted as amended
2. Chief Fred Ryan addressed the Commission regarding the new complaint by Tracy Edwards - at this time she has still not responded to the complaint - the concern of the commission is - a question that the incident was race based and that she did not know that the commission exists - Chief Ryan has spoken to the officers of APD regarding racial profiling and will continue his efforts to keep the officers aware - he distributed a data collection form that will be implemented soon by the officers and a demographics of citations that have been issued over the past three months - he reported on the work of a task force on racial profiling that he has been appointed to work on - spoke of problems with lack of help in the department - the ratio at this time is one officer for every thousand residents on a given shift -

In response to the results on the recent survey - he explained what happens when a complaint is received - and when a complaint should be made - addressed some of the complaints that were listed in the survey - will inform the commission of next meeting with his officers and invite someone to represent the AHRC - but had concerns that the officers may not be comfortable sharing with outsiders at their meetings - he will make a better effort to keep the commission informed of all incidents that concern us and thanked the AHRC for inviting him and for working to keep the lines of communication open.

3. **Dialogue Recap**

The Dialogue on Special Education was well received - about 50 attended - a lot of out of town people, lawyers, advocates for special education and parents of Bishop School - it was considered a successful event

The Dialogue - "Cotton Field of Dreams" - was a very successful evening - had about 60 attendees - Janis Kearney, author, was very well received - this event will also be run on cable

4. **Other Business**

Portraits at Robbins - Diversity Task Group asked for help for portrait show in Robbins Library on April 26th - Bill Shea will introduce the event - Christine Carney and Vita Cohen will take care of Saturday children's program

Ed Flynn Dialogue - May 17th event - Bill Shea has taken care of billboard at Town Hall to advertise event - Christine Carney will mail postcards - Marissa will write a press release for the Advocate -

Meeting adjourned at 9:15

*Prepared and submitted by:
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Staff Assistant*